

How to reset forgotten root password in Ubuntu 24.04

In Ubuntu systems, the root account is disabled by default.

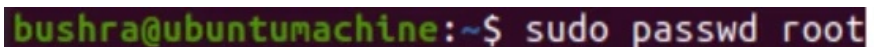
On Linux-based systems, the root account holds the highest level of privilege in the user role hierarchy. The root user has complete control over the system, including the ability to modify and override the privileges of other users. Normally, a user must have root privileges to make any changes to the system.

In Ubuntu systems, the root account is disabled by default. However, users can still make the necessary changes if they have access to the root password. Problems arise when the root password is forgotten. This article will guide you through the process of resetting the root password on an Ubuntu 24.04 system by changing the Grub boot loader configuration and booting Ubuntu in Rescue mode.

Change root password

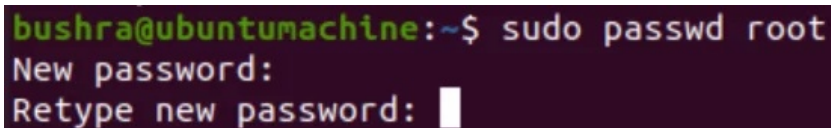
To change the root password in your system, open a terminal window using the shortcut **Ctrl + Alt + T**. You can also access the terminal window by going to your system **ApplicationsTerminal**. Now, to change the root password, enter the following command in the terminal window.

```
$ sudo passwd root
```



```
bushra@ubuntumachine:~$ sudo passwd root
```

The system will prompt the user to enter the new password they want to set. Then, when you press the key, the system will prompt the user to re-enter the new password again in the **Retype new password** field.



```
bushra@ubuntumachine:~$ sudo passwd root
New password:
Retype new password: █
```

When you press the key on the keyboard, the password will be updated successfully.

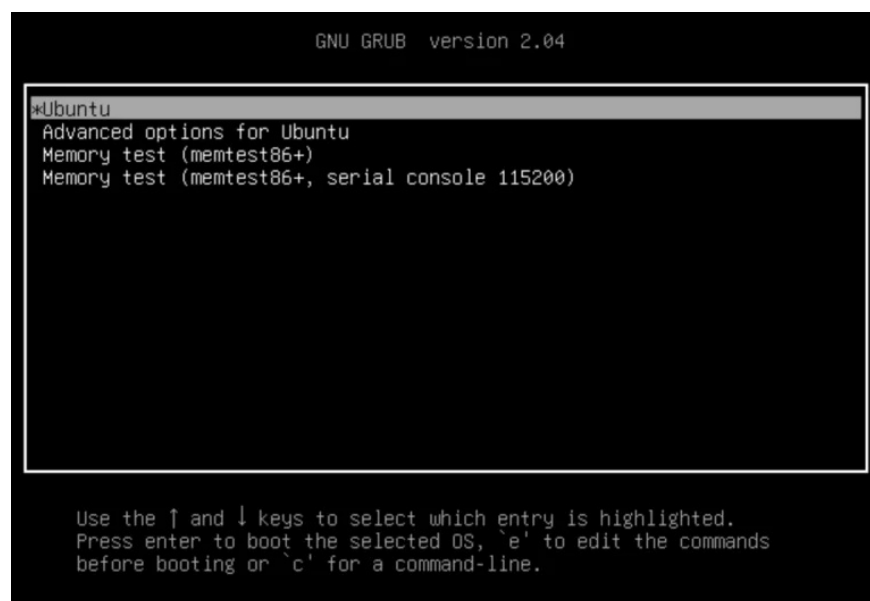
```
bushra@ubuntumachine:~$ sudo passwd root
New password:
Retype new password:
passwd: password updated successfully
```

Reset root password

When a user forgets the root password, they need to enter the user password.

Step 1: Boot into Recovery mode

To start with this method, the user needs to reboot the system. Press the key on the keyboard as soon as the boot screen appears. The GNU GRUB screen will appear as shown below:



This is the Ubuntu boot menu, showing the kernel versions and different options. Select the **Ubuntu** option by pressing the `.` Once Ubuntu is selected, you need to press the **"e"** key to open the grub parameters to edit.

```
GNU GRUB version 2.04

setparams 'Ubuntu'

    recordfail
    load_video
    gfxmode $linux_gfx_mode
    insmod gzio
    if [ x$grub_platform = xxen ]; then insmod xzio; insmod lzopio; \
fi
    insmod part_msdos
    insmod ext2
    set root='hd0,msdos5'
    if [ x$feature_platform_search_hint = xy ]; then
        search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root --hint-bios=hd0,msdos5\
--hint-efi=hd0,msdos5 --hint-baremetal=ahci0,msdos5 1183a96a-0bd5-4160\
-b609-4c58e71bfa9d
    fi

Minimum Emacs-like screen editing is supported. TAB lists
completions. Press Ctrl-x or F10 to boot, Ctrl-c or F2 for a
command-line or ESC to discard edits and return to the GRUB
menu.
```

Step 2: Change configuration

Then use the arrow keys again and scroll down to the last line that starts with the keyword "Linux/boot/vmlinuz".

```
GNU GRUB version 2.04

fi
    insmod part_msdos
    insmod ext2
    set root='hd0,msdos5'
    if [ x$feature_platform_search_hint = xy ]; then
        search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root --hint-bios=hd0,msdos5\
--hint-efi=hd0,msdos5 --hint-baremetal=ahci0,msdos5 1183a96a-0bd5-4160\
-b609-4c58e71bfa9d
    else
        search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root 1183a96a-0bd5-4160-b60\
9-4c58e71bfa9d
    fi
    linux /boot/vmlinuz-5.4.0-48-generic root=UUID=1183a96a-0\
bd5-4160-b609-4c58e71bfa9d ro quiet splash $vt_handoff
    initrd /boot/initrd.img-5.4.0-48-generic

Minimum Emacs-like screen editing is supported. TAB lists
completions. Press Ctrl-x or F10 to boot, Ctrl-c or F2 for a
command-line or ESC to discard edits and return to the GRUB
menu.
```

From the highlighted line above, you need to replace the word "ro quiet splash \$vt_handoff" with "rw init=/bin/bash" .

```
GNU GRUB version 2.04

fi
  insmod part_msdos
  insmod ext2
  set root='hd0,msdos5'
  if [ x$feature_platform_search_hint = xy ]; then
    search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root --hint-bios=hd0,msdos5\
--hint-efi=hd0,msdos5 --hint-baremetal=ahci0,msdos5 1183a96a-0bd5-4160\
-b609-4c58e71bfa9d
  else
    search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root 1183a96a-0bd5-4160-b60\
9-4c58e71bfa9d
  fi
  linux /boot/vmlinuz-5.4.0-48-generic root=UUID=1183a96a-0\
bd5-4160-b609-4c58e71bfa9d rw init=/bin/bash
  initrd /boot/initrd.img-5.4.0-48-generic

Minimum Emacs-like screen editing is supported. TAB lists
completions. Press Ctrl-x or F10 to boot, Ctrl-c or F2 for a
command-line or ESC to discard edits and return to the GRUB
menu.
```

Step 3: Restart the system

The next step is to reboot the system. You can do this by using **Ctrl + X** or **F10**. This will reboot your system with the updates applied. The system will reboot and you will be taken to the root shell. The shell will only appear once, and then it will appear normally.

To check if your root file system is mounted properly, add the following command to the shell.

```
$ mount | grep -w /
```

```
root@(none):/# mount | grep -w /
/dev/sda5 on / type ext4 (rw,relatime)
```

Step 4: Change root password

To change the root password, enter the following password command:

```
$ passwd
```

```
root@(none):/# passwd
```

The system will then prompt you to enter a new password and after you press **enter**, the system will ask you to re-enter the password.

```
root@(none):/# passwd
New password:
Retype new password:
```

Once the password is updated, a success message will appear on the screen.

```
root@(none):/# passwd
New password:
Retype new password:
passwd: password updated successfully
```

Password has now been successfully changed/reset. To confirm the update, you can restart the system.

In this article, we have learned how to reset the root password on Ubuntu 24.04 system. Forgetting the password is no longer a problem as you can easily follow this method to update and reset the root password.

You finished reading the article "**How to reset forgotten root password in Ubuntu 24.04**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.